

# AT THE INTERSECTION OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARTS

# Washington State Arts Commission 2007-2011 Strategic Plan



For more information about the Arts Commission or a copy of this plan visit [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov)

# Washington State Arts Commission

## 2007-2011 Strategic Plan

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# From the Director

June 1, 2006

In fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005) the Washington State Arts Commission provided funding support to 102 arts organizations that presented 32,807 arts events and projects in communities across the state. Through our work, the state art collection grew by 39 pieces, and conservation was completed on 35 works of art. Eleven artists served as apprentices with masters in traditional or folk arts, and we invested in 28 small grassroots arts and community organizations, providing targeted funding and training. We advanced arts education goals in 19 communities through partnerships involving local arts organizations, educators and civic leaders.

These numbers represent opportunities for Washington residents and visitors to participate in the arts. Our investments provide a public benefit and continue the state's commitment to Washington's cultural legacy. To further our ability to communicate the value of the arts, we're also using numbers in new ways:

- The Creative Vitality Index tracks how the arts contribute to the health of the creative economy for the state and local communities.
- The Arts Education Resources Initiative examines the state of arts education in Washington - what is working, what we can improve, and what actions are needed.
- The Government Management Accountability and Performance initiative gives us a closer look at our internal processes and results achieved.

We're also proud to provide leadership for important initiatives:

- Guiding the State Quarter Advisory Commission to support the Governor in the design and selection of our State quarter, to be released in 2007.
- Launching the Folk & Traditional Arts in the Parks Program, a partnership of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Arts Commission, to bring traditional music, dancing and art-making to Washington State Parks.
- Exploring international opportunities in the arts by hosting a forum of leaders in the arts, business and local governments, and hosting a dinner and tours of arts facilities for a delegation of cultural leaders from Shanghai, China.

Our work is at the intersection of state government and the arts. It's a dynamic, challenging place to be, and each year we find new dimensions to our roles. This strategic plan identifies the solid goals and smart strategies necessary to increase cultural opportunities for this and future generations. There is much to do! Thank you for your support.



Kris Tucker, Executive Director

# Agency Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington State Arts Commission is to cultivate a thriving environment for creative expression and appreciation of the arts for the benefit of all. *(Approved March 2001)*

## Our Statutory Authority

The Washington State Arts Commission is a state agency, established by the Legislature in 1961.

**Purpose:** The conservation and development of the State's artistic resources are essential to the social, educational, and economic growth of the State of Washington. Artists, works of art and artistic institutions contribute to the quality of life and the general welfare of the citizens of the State, and are an appropriate matter of concern to the government of the State of Washington. (RCW 43.46.005)

**Powers and duties generally:** The commission shall make such recommendations, as it deems proper for the cultural development of the State of Washington. (RCW 43.46.050)

**Visual arts program established:** The legislature declares it a policy of this State that a portion of appropriations for capital expenditures be set aside for the acquisition of works of art to be placed in public buildings or lands. There is hereby established a visual arts program to be administered by the Washington State Arts Commission. All works of art purchased and commissioned under the visual arts program shall become a part of a state art collection developed, administered and operated by the Washington State Arts Commission. (RCW 43.46.090 and 43.46.095)



# 2007-2011 Strategic Plan: The Big Picture

In 2006, the Arts Commission refined our Goals, Objectives and Strategies to reflect constituent needs, better align with our mission and clarify our vision.

## **Arts organizations and artists provide a public benefit.**

GOAL ONE: Expand public access to and participation in the arts to increase cultural opportunities and improve community vitality.

## **Public art enhances public spaces.**

GOAL TWO: Integrate public art into the state's built environment to advance community aesthetics and dialogue.

## **Arts education helps every student.**

GOAL THREE: Incorporate the arts into the education of every Washington student, kindergarten through grade 12, to ensure a complete and balanced education.

## **Washington supports its artistic resources.**

GOAL FOUR: Expand public and private support for the arts to increase resources, improve policies, and enrich understanding and awareness.

In 2002, the Arts Commission identified **Four Activities** that we pursue to produce a product, service or result. These activities correlate with the agency budget and performance measures as submitted to the Office of Financial Management and are directly related to our goals and vision.

- *Fund the growth, development, and stability of arts organizations in local communities.*
- *Acquire and conserve the state art collection.*
- *Support the arts as basic education.*
- *Build participation in the arts.*

# Goals, Objectives and Strategies

## **GOAL ONE – EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS TO INCREASE CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY VITALITY.**

Washington residents and visitors participate in the arts in many ways: attending arts events, creating art and contributing time or money to arts organizations and artists. The Arts Commission provides financial and technical support to organizations throughout Washington to reduce the cost of producing or presenting artistic events for the public, to increase outreach to underserved communities and to encourage partnerships that foster local arts programming. Additionally, Arts Commission funding leverages other funding from local and federal government, corporations, foundations and individuals.

**Objective One: Invest in arts organizations and artists to provide broad public benefit.**

### Strategies:

- Enhance the artistic quality and organizational capacity of arts organizations through grants and contracts for services.
- Strengthen the management skills of emerging and established arts organizations and artists through technical assistance.

**Objective Two: Increase support for arts and culture in underserved communities.**

### Strategies:

- Expand the capacity of arts organizations serving ethnic, rural, or low-income communities and people with disabilities through grants and training.
- Support and promote access to, and inclusion in, the arts for people with disabilities through partnerships, planning and training.
- Preserve, present and protect folk and traditional arts through apprenticeship and fellowship grants, projects and recognition.

**Objective Three: Expand arts opportunities in local communities.**

### Strategies:

- Encourage and support arts programs and services provided by public agencies including parks and libraries.
- Support local efforts to develop arts programs and facilities by providing technical assistance, information and referral services.

*Agency Activities Supported: Fund the growth, development, and stability of arts organizations in local communities and Build Participation in the Arts.*

**GOAL TWO – INTEGRATE PUBLIC ART INTO THE STATE’S BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY AESTHETICS AND DIALOGUE.**

Public art enhances public spaces, encouraging community dialogue and participation in the arts. The Arts Commission’s Art in Public Places program, established in 1974, has over 4,500 artworks integrated into the state’s built environment (e.g. state agencies, community colleges, universities, public schools, and parks). In 2005, the Arts Commission approved the *ArtCare* collection management plan to establish policies and procedures for stewardship of the State Art Collection as an important cultural resource.

**Objective One: Manage acquisition of professionally designed, created and installed artworks for the State Art Collection.**

Strategies:

- Acquire artwork through site-responsive commissioned artworks and curated collections of artworks.
- Present contemporary artworks by diverse professional artists working in a variety of methods and media through the Public Artist Roster.
- Ensure professionally managed fabrication and installation of artwork through effective communication and collaboration with artists and partner agencies (public schools, state agencies, colleges, and universities).

**Objective Two: Promote collection care and conservation best practices through the implementation of the *ArtCare* collection management plan.**

Strategies:

- Support partner agencies in providing routine cleaning and maintenance of artwork in the State Art Collection.
- Provide stewardship of the State Art Collection through artwork conservation (e.g. repair, restoration) and deaccession.
- Increase the Arts Commission’s impact on artwork conservation projects through the implementation of legislated policies.

**Objective Three: Increase access to public art and promote the State Art Collection.**

Strategies:

- Provide access to and promote the State Art Collection through digital technology.
- Work with partner agencies to provide community experiences with artists (i.e. artist seminars on installed public artworks).
- Enhance policies that support public art at the state and local level.

Agency Activity Supported: *Acquire and conserve the state art collection.*

**GOAL THREE – INCORPORATE THE ARTS INTO THE EDUCATION OF EVERY WASHINGTON STUDENT, KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12, TO ENSURE A COMPLETE AND BALANCED EDUCATION.**

Arts education helps every student, and is a vital part of a complete and well-rounded education. The Arts Commission is helping communities build strong arts education programming that responds to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements in the Arts. Our funding promotes the use of local resources and the development of local arts education expertise, and nurtures community-based partnerships between public schools, arts organizations and teaching artists, parents, and other local arts education supporters. Research shows us that arts education helps students develop critical 21st century skills, keeps students more engaged in school, enhances student achievement both inside and outside the classroom, and helps to foster a creative workforce, healthy communities, and educated citizens. The Arts Commission's own study, *Arts Education Resources Initiative*, demonstrates that while there are many exemplary programs in our state, the majority of our public schools need additional support, training, and other resources in order to meet the goal of *Arts for Every Student*.

**Objective One: Improve teaching and learning in and through the arts in K-12 public schools by providing technical and financial resources.**

Strategies:

- Support Washington's public education goals by coordinating our Arts in Education programs with the policies and strategies of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).
- Support arts education that is standards-based, comprehensive, sequential, and sustainable, by providing grants and training to community-based partnerships involving arts organizations, artists, and schools.
- Strengthen the arts teaching workforce (e.g. teaching artists, arts organizations, classroom teachers, and arts specialists) through a juried roster of teaching artists, and investments in training and curriculum.

**Objective Two: Provide and use information to advance thinking and practice in arts education.**

Strategies:

- Use the Arts Education Resources Initiative (AERI) as a foundation for Arts in Education programs and continued statewide research.
- Expand support for arts education through agency communications and trainings, and strategic partnerships with statewide arts organizations.
- Seek out and share information including best practices and emerging models in arts education.

Agency Activity Supported: *Support the arts as basic education.*

**GOAL FOUR – EXPAND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS TO INCREASE RESOURCES, IMPROVE POLICIES, AND ENRICH UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS.**

The state of Washington supports its artistic resources, and the Arts Commission is uniquely positioned to enhance statewide support for the arts and increase awareness of the role the arts play in the creative economy and quality of life in Washington. Research consistently demonstrates the important contribution that the arts make to vital thriving downtowns, and that healthy arts organizations support healthy communities.

**Objective One: Expand understanding of the public benefit of the arts.**

**Strategies:**

- Broadly share information with constituents and the public through agency communications tools.
- Continue to track how the arts contribute to the creative health of Washington and our communities through the Creative Vitality Index.
- Promote Washington arts in the state's tourism marketing efforts and ensure they are represented in tourism governance and decision making through partnerships with related state agencies and information sharing.

**Objective Two: Expand support for the arts.**

**Strategies:**

- Strengthen public and private financial support for the arts to leverage other resources.
- Promote involvement and volunteerism in the arts statewide through agency-supported trainings, communications and partnerships.

**Objective Three: Develop and advance public policy initiatives that enhance the arts environment in Washington State.**

**Strategies:**

- Integrate the arts with the state's agenda for international trade, diplomacy and tourism through targeted initiatives with government agencies and the private sector.
- Support a sustainable business environment for artists and arts organizations through initiatives such as the Washington Artists Health Insurance Project (WAHIP).

Agency Activity Supported: *All*.

## Priorities of Government and the Arts

A thriving arts environment contributes to Washington's priorities of government, recognized as the core of what government must do and do well for Washington. The 2005 Priorities of Government identifies, **"Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state"** as a statewide result that citizens expect most from government. Additionally, the arts contribute to other Priorities of Government:

### **Arts organizations and artists provide a public benefit.**

The arts improve the **quality and productivity of our workforce** by enhancing the quality of life that is key to recruiting and retaining workers, contributing to the "creative economy", and helping to create a livable environment at work and in the community.

In recent years, the arts have been increasingly acknowledged as an important part of the economy. Richard Florida's bestselling book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, places the arts firmly at the center of our knowledge driven economy.

The arts improve the **health of Washington citizens** by contributing to healthy lifestyles, facilitating healing and grieving, and increasing overall joy and enthusiasm.

The Arts Commission, Washington Services for the Blind, Department of Health and other members, are part of the *Washington Arts in Healthcare Network (WAHN)*. Established as an educational base for raising people's awareness about the value of art and artists in healthcare, medicine, and healing.

### **Public art enhances public spaces.**

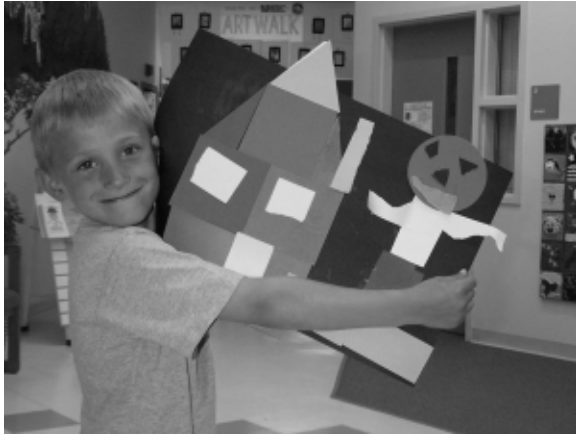
The arts improve the **economic vitality of businesses and individuals** through the revitalization of communities and downtowns, as is evident across the state, from the museum district of downtown Tacoma to the CREATE place in Newport, the Centrum Jazz Festival in Port Angeles and the murals in Toppenish.

The Arts Commission's *Arts Participation Initiative* has contributed to the rejuvenation of downtown Wapato. A rubble-strewn lot was converted into a thriving city park when five sculptures were created and installed by local students with the help of professional artists. The sculptures represent the diverse cultural heritage of Wapato's Hispanic, Native American, Japanese, Filipino, and Anglo residents and have become the focal point of downtown revitalization. Community festivals, gatherings and events are drawing residents back downtown. Once a main street with more than half of the storefronts closed, there are now only a few vacancies.



## Arts education helps every student.

The arts improve **student achievement** as part of a complete education, and contribute to increased attendance, student leadership and self-esteem.



Mountain Meadow Elementary School, in Buckley, has made a major commitment to arts education for all its students, in tandem with intensive professional development for teachers. Its successful work in the arts is a result of school and community commitment and leadership combined with district support, strong partnerships, and support from the Arts Commission's Community Consortium Grants program. School Principal Janel Keating reports that as their emphasis on the arts has increased, test scores in all

areas have risen. With 32 percent of its students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, Mountain Meadow ranked seventh statewide in combined reading, writing, and math WASL scores.

The arts improve the value of state college or university education (**postsecondary learning**), enriching the environment and exposing students to potential arts related career opportunities in arts, culture, heritage and creative enterprises.

The Kane Hall Collection, a permanent exhibition of fourteen artworks by nine nationally recognized artists, was dedicated in 2005 to pay tribute to the diversity of the University of Washington Campus community. The formation of the collection was the culmination of a long-term collaboration between student minority leaders, the University of Washington, and the Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Program. Students first approached Kurt Kiefer, University of Washington's campus arts administrator, in 1991 to discuss ways to make the physical campus more representative of the diverse people who work and study there. "This is the University's first attempt at a physical representation of diversity," Kiefer said, "and we wanted to be sure we did it right."

## Washington supports its artistic resources.

With the establishment of the Arts Commission in 1961, the continued support of the Governor, State Legislature and the citizens of Washington State, and as identified in the 2005 Priorities of Government, **arts and cultural opportunities** throughout the State are a priority of State Government and an important legacy for this and future generations.

## Our External Environment

The Arts Commission assesses our external environment using tools including surveys and polls of constituents, study of grantee data, trend analysis, statewide research and innovative data collection efforts.

**Economic trends**, determined through recent surveys of Arts Commission grantees, indicate that most large arts organizations (63%) supported by Arts Commission grants had a deficit or revenue shortfall in FY05, primarily due to increased costs for facilities, labor, materials and inflation.

**Cultural tourism** is the fastest growing sector of tourism, and arts organizations in rural and urban communities are seeing new tourism-related audiences, partnerships, and program opportunities. The Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) confirms that cultural tourists spend more, stay longer, and attend more than one cultural attraction. Museums, festivals, galleries, and performances are of growing importance to tourists.

The success of **international trade** and diplomacy often depends on bridges of understanding such as those developed through music, dance, theater, and visual arts. There is an increased effort to promote Washington's trade efforts, and cultural resources are an important part of the state's trade agenda, including promoting international tourism, by coordinating arts experiences for visiting delegations, and developing documentation to be used in state promotions and publications.

The Arts Commission established the **Creative Vitality Index (CVI)** as an annual measure of the health of the creative economy in a city, county, state or other geographic region. Using readily available, inexpensive data, we track arts-related employment and community participation in the arts. The Creative Vitality Index provides the Arts Commission with a method of tracking the big picture view of the arts in Washington State.

- CVI Index numbers show that Washington State has a higher creative vitality quotient than the nation as a whole (1.33 to 1).
- Washington's arts-related employment is significantly higher (1.76 to 1).
- The creative sector plays an important role in our cities; Seattle and Spokane both have index numbers higher than the national figure.

Launched in 2005 for Washington State, the CVI will be updated yearly. Other states and cities are adopting the CVI model; it will be introduced in Oregon and Denver in coming years.

The **Arts Education Resources Initiative (AERI)** was developed to help us learn about the state of arts education in our state – what is working, where we can improve, and what we can do, working together, to provide high quality arts education for our state's students. The report *Arts Education Resources Initiative: Arts for Every Student* and related research have revealed many things about arts education in Washington:

- Examples of good arts education instruction and programs exist, but often these programs do not meet their potential: curriculum is not adequately documented, or is not aligned with Washington State learning standards or assessment goals; districts lack hiring plans; and budgets are inadequate.
- Music (often band and choir) and visual arts are taught with relative frequency, but the arts have a hard time competing for instruction time in the high-stakes testing context. In many communities, the arts are discretionary.
- Across the state there is a commitment to arts education: principals, classroom teachers, arts educators and superintendents believe strongly that "it can be done."
- Principals who see positive change in their abilities to deliver arts education credit a variety of factors: community members with arts interests, teachers and administrators, state standards, and the involvement of the Washington State Arts Commission.

The *Arts Education Resources Initiative* is a valuable tool, furthering discussion and providing a benchmark for arts education in Washington; the Arts Commission is committed to conducting the study again next biennium.

The Arts Commission's **constituency** is becoming ever more diverse:

- An increasingly diverse population requires specialized approaches, techniques, and innovations.
- Some arts organizations – especially those with volunteer staff – value the outreach, technical assistance, and capacity building services of Arts Commission staff – as well as grant dollars to provide programming. However, some say grant application forms are too complex in relationship to the grant amount awarded.

New Governor lead initiatives and recently passed legislation have had a positive **policy** impact on the work of the Arts Commission:

- HB2188, passed with an effective date of July 24, 2005, allows capital budget funding available through the ½ of 1% artwork allocation to be used for conservation of the State Art Collection.
- The Governor's Plain Talk initiative has improved our constituent communications, making them clearer and reducing staff time spent answering follow-up questions.
- The Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP) initiative has enabled us to improve our strategic planning, recognize accomplishments, monitor how we are doing, and allowed us to make better, more informed decisions.
- The Priorities of Government (POG) process has enabled the Arts Commission to clarify how the arts contribute to the priorities of government, and strengthened our working partnerships with other state agencies. The Folk Arts and the Parks initiative is a direct result of POG. (See *Priorities of Government and the Arts* above.)

# Our Internal Capacity

## PERFORMANCE

The Arts Commission tracks performance measures for our four activity areas. Additionally, recent data gathered through our internal GMAP process, mined from existing report data and constituent input gathered during our strategic planning, has revealed a number of gaps in the level of funding and services that we are able to provide based on growing constituency need:

- Reduced funding in the past diminished our ability to fully fund our grant recipient organizations, reducing the impact of our grants: there has been a decline in the number of individuals participating in state-funded arts programs. Grant amounts are smaller, yet we are receiving more applications in nearly every category.
- We are supporting an increasing number of arts projects in and with historically underserved communities through a targeted initiative: ethnic, geographically isolated, low income and disability communities. State funding is currently inadequate to sustain the initiative and private funding does not fully bridge the gap.
- The number of artwork acquisition projects is growing because of increased state construction projects; staff workloads have increased.
- The state continues its commitment to the arts as part of a complete education, yet schools are decreasing the amount of time they devote to instruction in the arts. More schools are looking to us for the funding, training and other support that will help them achieve arts learning for every student.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH

The Arts Commission experienced a 20% reduction in state funds (and reduction of 1.6 FTE) for FY 2004 - FY 2005, forcing reductions to grants programs and significantly reducing our ability to implement our strategic plan. Specifically, we reduced grants to organizations by 20%, reduced arts education grants by 26%, reduced agency publications by 25% and reduced Commissioner travel costs by 25%; staff travel and grant panel costs were also reduced.

The Arts Commission continues to obtain private funds to support targeted initiatives. Our ability to solicit private funding reflects confidence in this agency and allows us to address strategic opportunities and challenges as they arise. Yet private funds have not offset the broad impact of the cuts to our state funding.

In recent years, we have received increased funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – both because we have submitted a more competitive application, and due to increases in Congressional appropriations to the NEA. For FY 2007, our total NEA funding has increased slightly, but new federal program restrictions have the effect of a loss in NEA funding for our general grant programs. We cannot anticipate continued increases in NEA funding support.

The Arts Commission successfully completed an audit by the Washington State Auditor for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2006; the extended time-period is due in part to the agency's history of clean audits. The recent audit had no findings, and recommended improvements to internal controls that have been incorporated into agency procedures.

## **CAPACITY**

Arts Commission leadership is strong. Retirements and reorganization of key roles has brought highly skilled new staff members who contribute fresh ideas and perspectives to the work of our agency while our seasoned staff contribute stability and perspective. Ongoing orientation and training has made Arts Commissioners smarter about our work, strategic about our resources, and better connected with stakeholders and legislators.

The Arts Commission has made it a priority to evaluate our processes and procedures in order to maximize our ability to serve our constantly growing and ever more diverse constituency. Our assessment of internal capacity has identified the following points as important to our ability to accomplish our mission, goals, and objectives:

- The Arts Commission has developed partnerships with other state agencies and arts organizations in order to provide greater access, education and support for the arts in Washington State. Partnerships allow for a more efficient financial investment and increased demographic impact. (*See Partnerships below for examples*)
- The State Art Collection, established in 1974, contains about 4500 artworks across the State – not in the protected environment of museums but in readily accessible public settings. The aging collection needs a greater investment in assessment, conservation, and maintenance. In 2005, the Arts Commission established a comprehensive *ArtCare* plan that provides a framework for improving our capacity in this area.
- Capital construction projects are on the rise around the state and increased collection care management has expanded the workload for Art in Public Places project staff, and is raising administrative costs within the program.
- Funding from the Wallace Foundation allowed us to invest in new models of grant making, testing options for reaching communities that have traditionally had limited opportunities to participate in the arts. This Arts Participation Initiative has important momentum, as we have strengthened community-based organizations, improved our training and outreach services, and linked grant making with professional development opportunities. A grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation enables us to continue this important work, but is insufficient to adequately support participating organizations, or to serve other eligible organizations that demonstrate readiness for sustained outreach and leadership development.
- Documentation and evaluation is an increasing priority, and is necessary in order to demonstrate the public value of our work and the impacts of our programs, and to identify and pursue strategic opportunities and efficiencies. We have established indicators for every action of our 2007-2011 strategic plan, evaluate programs annually, and conduct multi-faceted efforts to solicit constituent input each biennium.

# Cost Reduction Strategies

The Arts Commission is committed to reducing costs, streamlining processes, improving methods and investigating practices that are more effective.

## Program processes:

- Art in Public Places program staff are now assigned projects based on travel starting point for fieldwork (i.e. a staff member who resides in Seattle is assigned projects north of Seattle, reducing travel needs of Olympia based staff).
- The Grants to Organizations program has extended the grant funding cycle from one-year to two-years, reducing costs for staffing and convening panel meetings while simultaneously reducing the workload of our constituents.
- The Art in Public Places portfolio and application trainings for the Public Artist Roster are offered online, expanding availability to a larger audience while eliminating previous travel expenses required to produce trainings around the state.
- In FY 2005, a new pooling fund option for the Art in Public Places acquisition process for public schools, community colleges, and state agencies was successfully piloted. The new process reduces the number of contracts to artists issued, eliminates a separate purchasing process, and distributes the workload more evenly through the year while providing a more meaningful acquisition process.

## Travel:

- Increased use of the SCAN conference call system has replaced many face-to-face meetings, and has decreased travel costs.
- Using state motor pool vehicles, rather than personal vehicles, has resulted in reduced travel expenses, and requesting hybrid cars has further reduced costs.

## Communication:

- Staff actively use email for information distribution. A monthly eNews publication and weekly updates to the website have improved communications with constituents while decreasing printing costs.
- Distributing grant applications, guidelines and roster competitions through our website saves printing costs and makes the application process easier for our constituents.
- In FY 2007, the application process for our major grant programs will be conducted entirely online. This will result in an increased initial expense, but with long-term savings in staff time.
- Online grant application forms will be coordinated and standardized with other major arts funders in Washington to streamline processes for our constituents.

## Partnerships

The Arts Commission works in partnership with a variety of local, state and national agencies and non-profit organizations in order to provide greater access, education and support for the arts in Washington State.



The Washington State Arts Commission is one of the 56 state arts agencies receiving funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts** to sub-grant to local arts organizations and for arts education, programming, working with underserved communities, and specific projects. The Arts Commission competes well for NEA funds. New NEA initiatives include American Masterpieces and Poetry Out Loud.

The Arts Commission works with the **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)** and **ArtsEd Washington** to support high quality arts education for all students. In 2006, Governor Chris Gregoire signed a proclamation designating May 14-20, 2006, as Arts Education Week in Washington State. The Governor's proclamation serves as a spotlight for the collective efforts of arts educators throughout Washington. Arts Education Week provided a coordinated opportunity for schools and communities around the state to recognize the value of arts education, to celebrate local arts education achievements, and to focus attention on the necessary work ahead to ensure "Arts for Every Student."

For more than a decade, **Artist Trust** has facilitated the Arts Commission's fellowships to individual artists, and serves as an important partner in providing training, resources, and support for artists. **Arts Northwest**, supported by state arts commissions in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, convenes the region's premier touring and presenting conference, showcasing artists and enabling coordinated scheduling and training. With support from the Arts Commission, the **Washington State Arts Alliance Foundation** convenes the annual Washington Cultural Congress, a statewide meeting of arts leaders from communities of all sizes for professional development and networking.



In April of 2005, Governor Chris Gregoire announced the formation of the Washington **State Quarter Advisory Commission**, with Mike Gregoire named as honorary chair. More than 130,000 people responded to an opinion poll, and in May 2006 Governor Gregoire announced her selection for the state quarter design. The Arts Commission has managed the project, working closely with the **U.S. Mint**, the **Governor's Office**, and **Office of Financial Management**.

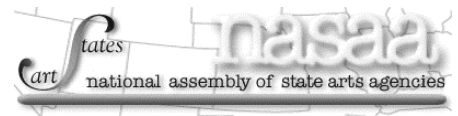
We have collaborated with **State Parks** since 1974, when **Centrum** was established at Fort Worden State Park (Port Townsend) through a partnership with three state agencies: Parks, Arts and OSPI. We are working now with Centrum to strengthen this partnership and enhance services. In January 2004, we signed an interagency agreement with State Parks to initiate additional arts programming; and received three-



year federal funding from the NEA to support the “Folk Arts in the Parks” program in FY 2005 through FY 2007.

We invested in arts projects along the Lewis and Clark Trail. This collaboration had support from the **National Parks Service** and worked with the **Oregon Arts Commission** and **Idaho Commission on the Arts**.

We are active members of the **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**, and benefit from their research, training, and links with other state arts agencies.



The Arts Commission works with **WESTAF**, the Western States Arts Federation, for the creative advancement and preservation of the arts in 13 Western states. WESTAF engages in arts policy research, information-systems development, state arts agency support, and convening arts experts and leaders to address critical issues in the arts. In FY 2005, WESTAF provided nearly \$50,000 in grants and projects to bring quality arts programs to rural and underserved communities in Washington.



In partnership with **Centrum**, **VSA Arts of Washington** and others, the Arts Commission participated in *Arts and Cultural Facilities Access Training*, at Fort Worden State Park. The training included hands-on practice in the application of access technology and services, and information on ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and the development of accessible facilities. Forty-five arts administrators, arts business owners and interested citizens attended and learned the skills necessary to determine the accessibility of cultural facilities for people with disabilities.

In 2006, we completed the initial phase of the five-year Arts Participation Initiative funded by **Wallace Foundation** to enhance and assess arts participation in target communities (ethnic, rural, economically disadvantaged, people with disabilities). The initiative has included extensive professional development for key agency staff and Commissioners. The initiative has funded two- and three-year grants to small community-based organizations from across the state, and provided training for leadership teams for each of these grantee partners. The Arts Commission has received a grant from the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation** to continue the Arts Participation Initiative at a smaller scale.



The State of Washington was the subject of a pilot project, “Mapping State Cultural Policy,” led by **The Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago**. This effort to look at “the full range of [Washington’s] cultural programs and policies as a unified whole” included arts, humanities, heritage and allied forms of culture. The project and its publication (released January 2004) have invited better working relationships among these and related agencies and provide an important basis for future documentation and assessment.

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## Photo Credits

Cover: Images from Arts Commission programs and partners: Art in Public Places, Arts Participation Initiative, Folk Arts, Grants to Organizations and others.

Page 4 left: Folklórico Dancers performing at Wenatchee Confluence State Park as part of The Folk & Traditional Arts in the Parks Program, a Partnership of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Arts Commission. Photo by Jens Lund.

Page 4 middle: Steve Gardner, *The Four Elements* (Water detail), 2003. Installed on the University of Washington Tacoma campus as part of the Art in Public Places ½ of one percent for art program.

Page 4 right: Student participants at the 2005 Seattle Children's Theatre Drama School, a recipient of an Institutional Support grant from the Arts Commission's Grants to Organizations program. Photo by Chris Bennion.

Page 10: Painted metal (detail) for a wall mural by youth artists in Wapato, sponsored by Northwest Learning and Achievement as part of the Arts Commission's Arts Participation Initiative.

Page 11: Student and his artwork at Mountain Meadow Elementary School in Buckley, recipients of a Community Consortia grant from the Art Commission's Arts in Education program.